

10 School Catering and Health and Safety checks

Control Activities Aimed at School Catering

The Czech School Inspectorate also inspects school canteens. In the school year 2014/2015, 862 checks in school canteens or other school catering facilities were conducted.

The quality of school catering has changed for the better over the past few years; particularly the range of services provided by school catering facilities has improved. The monitored dining environment is mostly pleasant, neat and clean. Most school cafeterias and canteens devote considerable attention to drawing up nutritionally balanced menus. Moreover, schools and other school facilities extend the range of healthy alternatives with an aim of improving pupils' eating habits (mainly fruit, milk and other dairy products).

On the other hand, there is a problem concerning availability of meals for pupils with special diets (only 9.2% of the checked schools or other school facilities offered these to pupils). The Czech School Inspectorate therefore recommends that school catering facilities offer dietary meals to children with chronic medical conditions or other diet limitations.

Control Activities Concerning Accidents Happening at Schools

Health education and provision of safe learning and teaching are integral parts of educational programs at all levels of initial education. The Czech School Inspectorate pays particular attention to:

- *Ensuring that health and safety regulations in education and other directly related activities are followed and observed*
- *Providing the necessary information to children, pupils and students to ensure health and safety measures are observed*
- *Checking that records of injuries of children, pupils and students are duly kept and records of injuries are submitted to institutions defined by the Education Act.*

Schools/school facilities are obliged to notify the Czech School Inspectorate of accidents resulting in the absence of a pupil at the school/school facility; of accidents or injuries where compensation will be required; and of injuries or accidents leading to death. In the school year 2014/2015, the Czech School Inspectorate was sent 38,710 records on injuries/accidents (as of August 31, 2015). In comparison with the previous school year 2013/2014, it is about 7,269 more accidents, the increase amounts to 23.1%. The overall injury rate index is 2.3%. The highest absolute number of accidents is reported by elementary school. In the school year 2014/2015 one fatal accident was recorded.